

Gina Birch 1955 – Musician and film maker



Gina was born in Nottingham and attended Nottingham Girls High school after which she went to Hornsey School of Art, while there in 1977 she formed The Raincoats with Ana da Silva; described as a punk band. The Raincoats broke up in 1984 and Gina worked with experimental musician Mayo Thompson and his band Red Crayola for a while in Germany. After this she formed the band Dorothy with fellow ex-Raincoat Vicky Aspinall, they were signed to Chrysalis records. When Dorothy broke up Gina matriculated from the Royal College of Art where she studied film direction and produced several dramas. In the 1990's The Raincoats were asked to reform to perform on tour with Nirvana and subsequently they were invited to make an album. While this interrupted her filmmaking, she did produce several music videos including the DVD video for *The Libertines*. She directed New Order's *Crystal* as well as multiple video installations. Her musical career continued through the 1990's with the 1998 release of *Slow Dirty Tears* with The Hangovers, a band she had formed in 1996. In 2000 and 2007 she performed live at Ladyfest and continues to perform regularly in London

Gina is married to Mike Holdsworth and has 2 daughters Honey and Lei Lei. On October 1st 2021 she released her debut solo single *Feminist Song* and her debut solo album *I play my Bass Loud* was released in February 2023 with tracks such as Feminist Rage, Pussy Riot and Big Mouth. Her musical style as well as her filmmaking is best described as post-punk, alternative/ indie and she is known for doing things all her own way and by her own rules. Her piece included in the Women in Revolt exhibition at Tate Britain in 2023/4 was a three minute film piece of her screaming. She is described as a 70's feminist icon.